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The recent "article" titled *"Erdogan's Ambitions Go Beyond Syria. He Says He Wants Nuclear Weapons,"* resembles, unfortunately, nothing more than a poorly written piece of fantasy fiction.

The unsubstantiated claims and statements therein merely reflect the vivid imagination of the writers, as well as their predisposed approach to deliberately misrepresenting well known facts.

Moreover, the so-called experts, quoted in the article, are representatives of a small group of individuals that hope to gain personal recognition by voicing unconfirmed theories about Turkey.

I find it deeply disappointing that a renowned newspaper, such as The New York Times, prints an article that is purely based on speculations, while failing to provide a single official document of an international organization, supporting these unfounded accusations.

Contrary to the allegations in the article, we have been a staunch supporter of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and have stayed true to our international obligations, including the NPT and CTBT.

We have drawn attention time and again to the threats arising from nuclear proliferation. Turkey does not want any country in its greater neighborhood to acquire nuclear weapons, as this would pose a substantial threat to peace and stability in an already fragile region.

Furthermore, the writers accuse Turkey of aiming to "break out the NATO treaty and to arm itself with the ultimate weapon". This is as far from the truth as it can get. Turkey ensures global security at a time of unprecedented challenges facing the alliance. As a NATO ally for seventy years, Turkey has been a reliable partner on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism and other imminent threats.

Every member of this longstanding alliance, no matter where they are in the world, benefits from certain measures of deterrence. Nevertheless, like any

sovereign nation, Turkey will continue to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its citizens, in face of imminent and existential threats.

With this understanding, I would like to encourage the reporters David E. Sanger and William J. Broad to approach such delicate issues in a more balanced and unbiased manner.

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